

What Characterizes a Successful DLT Project?

- *Fulfilling community needs**
- *Need for Funding**
- *System Sustainability**
- *Cost Effectiveness of the Technology**



Since the DLT program's inception in 1993, demand for the funding has been enormous. The funding helps thousands of schools and learning centers provide increased educational opportunities to rural students and residents and enhances health care at hundreds of hospitals and rural health clinics.

Fiscal Year 2004 Funding

- New York: \$498,979 grant to Cattaraugus– Allegany– Erie– Wyoming BOCES**
- National: 40 Distance Learning Grants for \$17.1 million and 22 Telemedicine Grants for \$7.5 million**

For more information or an application package, visit USDA Rural Development's DLT website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm>

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Our Community Facilities Program can also help rural communities build or improve schools and health care facilities. For information on this and other USDA Rural Development programs, visit our website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ny/> or contact your nearest USDA Rural Development Field Office.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

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2005



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

Bringing the World to Rural America



The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) is designed specifically to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. Loans, grants, and loan and grant combinations facilitate advanced telecommunications technologies that provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents.

DLT Projects:

- *Promote Partnerships*
- *Solve Problems*
- *Are Locally Supported*

DLT Program Facts

Who is Eligible?

In order to be considered for funding, applicants must be:

- Legally organized incorporated organizations or partnerships
- Indian tribes or tribal organizations
- A state or local unit of government or a non profit corporation
- Delivering or proposing to deliver distance learning or telemedicine services
- Operating a rural community facility or delivering distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility. The benefit of services must reach rural communities.

Grant Program Features

- Annual application period
- Competitive application process
- 15% required matching contributions
- \$50,000 minimum, \$500,000 maximum

Eligible Purposes:

- Acquiring eligible equipment
 - Computer hardware and software
 - Audio and video equipment
 - Computer network components
 - Terminal equipment
 - Inside wiring
 - Interactive video equipment
 - Any other facilities that further DLT services
- Acquiring instructional programming
- Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

Competitive Scoring Criteria

- Need for services and benefits
- Extent to which project's service area is rural
- Economic need as estimated by the National School Lunch Program
- Ability to leverage resources
- Innovativeness
- Cost effectiveness of the system
- Project participation in Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Champion Communities

Loan/ Grant Combination Features

- Applications accepted year- round, processed as received
- Noncompetitive application process
- No matching contribution
- \$50,000 minimum, \$10,000,000 maximum loan

Eligible Purposes

- All eligible grant purposes
- Medical or educational equipment
- Links between teachers/ students or medical professionals in the same facility
- Site development and alteration of buildings
- Purchasing of land
- Purchasing or constructing buildings
- Acquiring telecommunications transmission facilities provided no facilities exist

Loan Program Features

- Applications accepted year around, processed as received
- Noncompetitive application process
- No matching contribution
- \$50,000 minimum

Eligible Purposes

- All eligible loan/ grant combination purposes
- Project operating costs during the first two years, excluding salaries and administrative expenses
- Educational broadcasting for distance learning purposes